

Robin Black

Robin Black has made major contributions to engineering, engineering education and engineering heritage in Queensland over a period of forty five years. In particular, through Engineers Australia, he has actively promoted Queensland's engineering heritage.

Born in Ashgrove, Brisbane in 1940, and after secondary schooling at Warwick and Brisbane, he graduated BE (Civil) from the University of Queensland in 1962. His professional career was essentially water-oriented.

He won a scholarship from the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission and after graduation spent five months in their Irrigation Branch Head Office. He then joined the Mareeba-Dimbulah Irrigation Project, where he reported to Henry Hannan, grandson of the Hannan of Kuranda railway fame. At Mareeba, Robin met his future wife Robyn who was then a CSIRO tobacco research officer.

He returned to Brisbane for further study and lectured at the Queensland Institute of Technology (QIT), later Queensland University of Technology. In 1972, he graduated Master of Engineering Science at University of Queensland and was promoted to Senior Lecturer at QIT, a position he held until his retirement. An articulate and entertaining lecturer, communicator and author of several papers, he is well known and highly regarded throughout Queensland's engineering profession.

Robin has spent the eleven years since retirement endowing Engineering Heritage Australia (EHA) with his enthusiasm, energy and wit. He joined the EHA Queensland Division Panel in 1997, chairing it from 1998 to 2007. Over this period the panel ran the 2003 National Engineering Heritage Conference at Toowoomba, published *Eminent Queensland Engineers Volume 2* and a walk-drive Heritage Trail of inner Brisbane. He was active in the recognition of the Cairns-Kuranda Railway, the Victoria Bridge in Townsville, the Southern Cross windmill at Toowoomba and initiated heritage recognition of the minimum energy loss culvert at Redcliffe.

Robin joined the EHA National Board in May 1999 and facilitated the upgrading of the EHA Strategic Plan in 2004. He served on the Plaquing Committee for four years from 2001. For nine months in 2007, Robin chaired the Engineering Heritage Australia National Board, but had to relinquish the chair when diagnosed with leukaemia. His serious illness has restricted but not dulled his almost lifelong enthusiasm for engineering history and heritage.

VERSION 1	5 June 2009	444 words body	Bill Oliver
VERSION 2	5 June 2009	327 words body	
VERSION 3	7 June 2009	362 words body	
VERSION 4	8 June 2009	360 words body	Bill Oliver
VERSION 5	9 June 2009	355 words body	
VERSION 6	10 June 2009	358 words body	
VERSION 7	11 June 2009	360 words body	Bruce Cole
VERSION 8	12 June 2009	361 words body	Keith Baker
VERSION 9	24 June 2009	361 words body	Format